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ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN PULP AND PAPER WORKERS

A Union for Today...and Tomorrow

Affiliated with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, AFL-CIO
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March 1, 2000

Federal Caucus Comments Comment Record
c/o BPA - PL
707 W Main Street (Suite 500)
Spokane, WA 99201

Dear Sir or Madame:

The Executive Board of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers met recently and held a great discussion about the effects the removal of Snake River dams would have on paper mill workers and their families. The forest products industries are very predominate in the Pacific Northwest. Not only do we rely on the electrical power from the dams, but we need the navigable waterways to transport products needed to produce the products we supply to the nation as a whole. We do not want to see any of the dams removed on the Snake River system.

We realize the importance of saving the salmon. We do not believe there is enough scientific data to confirm such drastic action will solve the problem. We do believe that the economic effect that removal of the dams will have on the lives of the many families in many industries throughout the Northwest, should be given very strong consideration.

Scientific data shows that of the 36 stocks of endangered species, only four pass through the Snake River system. Also the percentage of returning salmon is now about the same as it was in the 1960's, before the dams were built.

The salmon issue is very complex. Removal of the dams is **not one** miraculous solution to help save the salmon. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that the Army Corps of Engineers is conducting is too narrow. They should not be asking if dams should be breached (removal) but should be asking how salmon can be saved.

One thorny issue with many of our members who live along the coast is their witnessing the huge number of salmon and steelhead being devoured by the seals and sea lions. These mammals, after being protected, have grown in such huge numbers that they are now over proportion in the food chain to the extent that it requires too many fish to feed them each day. Yet there seems little thought to controlling the size of this predator to the stocks of endangered fish. WHY???

Our rivers and dams serve too many purposes in our livelihood just to simply pull

the plug on the Snake River dams and let the water run free just to see if something may work to save the salmon. If that does not work, is there any thought of reconstructing the dams?

Once again, we kindly ask for your groups to consider the effect such a risky action would definitely have on many human lives at risk if the dams are removed.

Sincerely



Gene N. Hain
Secretary-Treasurer

cc: Senators: Slade Gorton - Washington
Patty Murray - Washington
Ron Wyden - Oregon
Gordon Smith - Oregon
Larry E. Craig - Idaho
Mike Crapo - Idaho

Representatives: Jay Inslee - Washington
Jack Metcalf - Washington
Brian Baird - Washington
Richard Hastings - Washington
George Nethercutt - Washington
Norman Dicks - Washington
Jim McDermott - Washington
Jennifer Dunn - Washington
Adam Smith - Washington
Helen Chenoweth - Idaho
Michael Simpson - Idaho
David Wu - Oregon
Greg Walden - Oregon
Earl Blumenauer - Oregon
Peter DeFazio - Oregon
Darlene Hooley - Oregon

AWPPW Local Unions